

HILLSIDE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

PUBLIC USE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

August 1985

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Refuge Manager
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PUBLIC USE REQUIREMENTS
INFORMAL REVIEW FORM

Instructions: Fill in blanks and attach to Public Use Development Plan

District/Zone 4 Station Name Hillside NWR Station Number 43580

Requirements	Requirement Compliance? (Yes, No, N/A)	\$ Cost Estimate to Meet Requirement (only if "No" compliance)
1. Set station public use goals	<u>Yes</u>	<u>\$</u>
2. Project a positive attitude	<u>Yes</u>	<u>\$</u>
3. Welcome and orient visitors	<u>Yes</u>	<u>\$</u>
4. Develop key resources awareness	<u>No</u>	<u>\$ 2,000.</u>
5. Provide observation opportunities	<u>No</u>	<u>\$15,000.</u>
6. Provide teacher assistance	<u>No</u>	<u>\$10,000.</u>
7. Maintain quality hunting program	<u>Yes</u>	<u>\$</u>
8. Maintain quality fishing program	<u>Yes</u>	<u>\$</u>
9. Manage cultural resources	<u>N/A</u>	<u>\$</u>
10. Explore public assistance opportunities for field station operations	<u>No</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.</u>

* Compliance must be filled in on all Public Use Requirements as one of the following:

- Yes - Requirement category has been met.
- No - Requirement category has not been met.
- N/A - Requirement category is not applicable to this station.

\$ Funds estimated as necessary to meet the category requirement.
(Listed for "No" only)

PUBLIC USE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
FOR HILLSIDE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CHAPTER 1. PUBLIC USE GOALS

National Public Use Requirement #1: SET STATION PUBLIC USE GOALS

The goals for each public use function at Hillside National Wildlife Refuge are as follows:

A. Interpretation

- Interpret refuge management activities and how they benefit wildlife and/or public recreation.

B. Outdoor Classrooms

- Provide an outdoor classroom site that is representative of major habitat types and that lends itself to the discussion of habitat management.

C. Educational Assistance

- Provide supplemental material to local teachers outlining the use of outdoor classrooms.

D. Program Information

- Disseminate basic information concerning refuge programs, facilities, regulations, activities, and priorities to the public through various types of media.

E. Fish and Wildlife/Wildlands-Oriented Recreation

- Provide high quality outdoor recreational opportunities oriented toward wildlife and wildlands and provide opportunities for the public to develop an appreciation of fish and wildlife management practices and objectives.

F. Non Fish and Wildlife-Oriented Recreation

- Eliminate all non-wildlife/wildlands oriented recreation.

G. Dedicated Areas/Cultural Resources

- Protect and preserve archaeological or historical sites found on the refuge.

CHAPTER 2. PUBLIC RELATIONS

National Public Use Requirement #2: PROJECT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Present Conditions

Refuge employees are expected to answer questions concerning the refuge and its activities. If this is not possible, visitors are referred to someone who may be able to provide more detailed information.

Improvements Needed

- A. Brochure boxes must be placed at strategic points around the refuge to insure visitor access to information.
- B. Present programs dealing with the refuge and its management to any interested conservation or civic organization.
- C. Set a goal of one news release per month to cover all aspects of resource management and recreational opportunities.
- D. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 3. VISITOR WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

National Public Use Requirement #3: WELCOME AND ORIENT VISITORS

Present Conditions

- A. A map is contained in our general leaflet that lists the main roads of the refuge along with other items.
- B. The station Master Plan brochure shows several proposed areas for development.
- C. Major entrance signs list the opportunities available on the refuge.
- D. A kiosk will serve as an information point at the headquarters.

Improvements Needed

- A. The refuge leaflet will be revised to reflect changes in public use facilities that will be developed.
- B. Post the hours the refuge will open to the public near all major and minor entrances to the refuge.
- C. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 4. INTERPRETATION

National Public Use Requirement #4: DEVELOP KEY RESOURCES AWARENESS

Present Conditions

- A. Limited information is contained in the general leaflet concerning future development of public use facilities.

Improvements Needed

- A. Establish a means by which the public may become aware of the key resources found on the refuge.
 - 1. Promote the idea of an outdoor classroom at AP's Slough to provide an overall view of the refuge at minimal cost and upkeep.
 - 2. At some point in the future, construct an observation tower in this area when public use warrants it.
- B. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 5. NON-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

National Public Use Requirement #5: PROVIDE OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Present Conditions

2. <
- A. Waterfowl can be seen in several of the impoundments along Turkey Point road but this area is not open to the public.
 - B. Songbirds, wading birds, and other wildlife species may be viewed from the road system present on the refuge and also along the levees which follow the western boundary.
 - C. A calendar of wildlife events has been developed.

Improvements Needed

- A. The observation tower developed under Requirement #4 will provide the visitor the opportunity to see some of the refuge's most important species, i.e. migratory waterfowl, wading birds, habitat types, and various successional stages.
- B. Develop and construct an observation trail along Alligator Slough. This area is extensively used by all types of birds and would provide excellent observation opportunities.

CHAPTER 6. TEACHER ASSISTANCE

National Public Use Requirement #6: PROVIDE TEACHER ASSISTANCE

Present Conditions

No Activity

Improvements Needed

- A. Provide local instructors with a study area for various habitat types and waterfowl species.
- B. Work with school board to inform teachers of refuge resources and assistance that may be provided.
- C. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 7. CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION - HUNTING

National Public Use Requirement #7: MAINTAIN QUALITY HUNTING PROGRAMS

Present Conditions

- A. We conduct several hunts on the refuge in accordance with the Refuge Hunting Plan.
- B. We have a leaflet of regulations with an orientation map.
- C. Prepared annual hunting proposals that reflected needed changes in hunts.

Improvements Needed

- A. Improve format of refuge hunt regulations.
- B. Review hunt program yearly and make changes that would increase the quality of existing hunts.
- C. Improve refuge map.
- D. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.

CHAPTER 8. CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION - FISHING

National Public Use Requirement #8: MAINTAIN QUALITY FISHING PROGRAM

Present Conditions

Fishing is currently open in the (30 acre) Bear Lake area and 20 miles of streams, sloughs, and brakes throughout the refuge. The borrow ponds located along the Corps of Engineers Hillside Floodway Levee are open year-round.

Improvements Needed

- A. Establish commercial fishing program to eliminate the rough fish in the borrow ponds.
- B. Update refuge fishing brochure.

CHAPTER 9. DEDICATED AREAS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

National Public Use Requirement #9: MANAGE CULTURAL RESOURCES

Present Conditions

No Activity

Improvements Needed

- A. Cooperate with State and other local agencies to uncover and maintain any cultural resources.

CHAPTER 10. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

National Public Use Requirement #10: EXPLORE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIELD STATION OPERATIONS

Present Condition

No Activity

Improvements Needed

- A. Investigate the potential for establishment of a volunteer program.
- B. Establish an Outdoor Recreation Planner position.